GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2104
ANSWERED ON:02.12.2002
SELLING OF AFRICAN IVORY IN INTERNATIONAL MARKET
M.H. AMBAREESH

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether during the recently held conference of parties of the convention of International trade in Endangered Species of Flora and Fauna in Chile, it has been decided to allow some African countries to sell huge stocks of Ivory in the International market ; and

(b) if so, the impact of this decision on the Indian endangered animals?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R.BAALU) :

(a) and (b) At the 12th meeting of the conference of parties to CITES (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora) held in Santiago (Chile) from November 3 to 15, 2002, it has beendecided to permit Botswana, Namibia and South Africa to sell some quantity of Ivory. But the permission is only for a one-off sale of the legally procured stocks of ivory lying in the government custody. Furthermore, the salewill take place only after fulfillment of certain conditions by the exporting and the importing countries and, in any case, not before May 2004. As such, no major impact of the proposed sale on the elephant or any other endangered animal in India is apprehended.